



Department of Justice

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 9, 2008

www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

Docket #: 07-cr-300-MCE

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood

PHONE: (916) 554-2706

lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

HOUSTON MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN COUNTERFEITING SCHEME

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that OSCAR VILLAREAL, 31, of Houston, Texas was sentenced today by United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. to 33 months in prison for counterfeiting and conspiracy to counterfeit United States currency and passing counterfeit currency. He pleaded guilty on September 7, 2007.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the United States Secret Service and the West Sacramento Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who prosecuted the case, Judge England, in sentencing the defendant, said that VILLAREAL had engaged in serious criminal activity that resulted in the counterfeiting of over \$15,000. Some of that counterfeit money was used by VILLAREAL and his co-conspirator, EDITH MINER, to purchase drugs, food, and gas throughout the Sacramento area. VILLAREAL has a long criminal history, including multiple theft offenses in Texas and California. He met MINER, a former school teacher in Antioch and Elk Grove, Calif. in 2006. Judge England sentenced MINER to 18 months in prison on January 10, 2008, for her role in the conspiracy and counterfeiting.

###